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ABSTRACT

The policy statement of the American Foundation for the Blind deals with discrimination against minority groups. It is stated that the foundation is opposed to the practice of providing services on a segregated basis, that any activity conducted by the foundation will not be held at a location where all persons cannot be fully accommodated without discrimination, that recipients of foundation stipends will be selected solely on merit and need, and that selection of persons for employment by the foundation is based solely upon job qualifications of applicants. (DB)

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Policy Statement

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BACKGROUND

This statement has been prepared in recognition of the recurrent need to re-examine and clarify the policy position of the American Foundation for the Blind with respect to discrimination against minority groups.

The American Foundation for the Blind is an organization whose main objective is to help those handicapped by blindness achieve the fullest possible development and utilization of their capacities and the maximum integration into the social, cultural and economic life of the community. Basic to achieving these goals is concern for the dignity, worth and freedom of every individual regardless of race, color or creed. Since its inception, the Foundation has believed and continues to believe that democracy cannot tolerate discrimination directed at any part of its population or barriers that isolate groups of individuals from each other. Resulting from its specialized aims and objectives, the American Foundation for the Blind has a special concern with the application of these democratic principles and ideals as they relate to all persons who are blind or otherwise visually impaired.

POLICY

Consistent with these democratic values, the American Foundation for the Blind accepts and reaffirms the following policies:

a. The Foundation is opposed to the practice of providing services on a segregated basis. Although the Foundation will not deny its services to those agencies which continue this practice, every effort will be made to encourage the achievement of full integration.

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b. Any activity initiated, sponsored, or conducted by the Foundation involving the bringing together of persons for the purpose of meetings, conferences, or giving instruction will not be held at a location where all persons cannot be fully accommodated without discrimination.

c. The Foundation will continue its policy of selecting recipients for stipends solely upon the basis of merit, technical competence and need. Moreover, grants to institutions for academic courses, research or other purposes will not be made if members of minority groups cannot fully participate.

d. The Foundation subscribes to and supports the belief that no organization, association, or agency, professional or otherwise, concerned with human welfare, should convene a convention, conference or committee meeting in a location where all members and participants cannot be accommodated without discrimination.

e. The selection of persons for employment by the Foundation is based solely upon the job qualifications of applicants.

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